

Shahal backs Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (R) — A top contender to lead Israel's main opposition party said he favoured establishment of a Palestinian state linked to Jordan after the Gulf war, newspapers reported Friday. Moshe Shahal, 56, former energy minister, recently announced he would join the race for the Labour Party leadership now held by Shimon Perez. "I could never understand the basis for the concept of saying no to a Palestinian state," he was quoted as telling a party gathering. "I say definitely yes. If it will lead to a peace settlement between us and the Palestinians and the Arab states it has a chance." Asked by party colleague and former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin exactly what he meant, Mr. Shahal replied: "I am prepared to recognise a Palestinian entity, call it what you like, in the framework of a confederacy with Jordan." He said such a state was possible if Palestinians recognised Israel and dropped demands such as the right to return to areas they inhabited in pre-1948 Palestine. Mr. Shahal, known as a centrist and pragmatist, surprised party circles and drew criticism from hawkish Labour members.

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Masri, Dumas discuss Gulf peace

PARIS (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and his French counterpart Roland Dumas Friday reviewed the Soviet initiative to end the war in the Gulf and bring about peace to the region. Mr. Masri voiced Jordanian support for the plan and stressed the need for France and the European countries to follow a course that would enable them to deal with the plan "swiftly and positively." Mr. Masri said France should play its role supporting peaceful dialogue and implementing international legitimacy without going beyond its limitation, as is expected by the Arabs. Mr. Masri and Mr. Dumas discussed future relations between the Arab World and the European Community (EC) as well as the Jordanian-French relations. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador to France, Awad Al Khalidi. Mr. Masri will hold a meeting next Monday with the (EC) "trio," which groups Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands, to discuss future Arab-European relations in the light of the prevailing situation in the region. This will be part of a series of meetings the European Community will be holding with several of the countries in the region.

War and peace hang on balance

Soviets present revised six-point peace proposal

Combined agency despatches

A SOVIET SPOKESMAN Friday presented a revised six-point set of provisions agreed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and an end to the Gulf war.

The new plan, which the spokesman said had not yet been ratified by the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad, appeared to be part of an effort by Moscow to bring its own peace plan and U.S. demands closer together.

Reached after lengthy new discussions during the day, the provisions call for the withdrawal to begin one day after a cease-fire, Soviet spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said.

He said the withdrawal would

be completed 21 days after the ceasefire.

U.S. President George Bush demanded earlier Friday that Iraq begin a withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait by noon Saturday Eastern U.S. time (1700 GMT) and complete it within a week in order to avoid a ground war.

Asked about the response of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to Mr. Bush's ultimatum, Mr. Ignatenko said it was the revised Soviet plan.

Mr. Ignatenko said Mr. Gorbachev had spoken with Mr. Bush by telephone for 90 minutes just before the news conference. Bush spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the U.S. president had no immediate comment.

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U.N. on standby

Combined agency dispatches

THE U.N. Security Council, which for months has played a key role in the Gulf crisis, waited and watched on the sidelines Friday as Moscow, Washington and Baghdad *did a diplomatic dance* about peace plans.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar praised the Soviet Union "for having made such an important effort" with a peace plan it put forth and said he considered Iraq's willingness to withdraw from Kuwait "really, very, very important."

But all eyes were on the 15 members of the Security Council, who authorised the resolutions that led to the military action against Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait last August.

Ambassadors of the council members were on standby waiting to be briefed by the Soviet Union on the latest details of its peace plan negotiated in Moscow with Iraq's foreign minister.

Diplomats said, however, that Western objections to the plan could stall any moves for a ceasefire.

The council is expected at some point to consider calling for a cease-fire, lifting of sanctions against Iraq and authorisation of a U.N. peacekeeping force to monitor an Iraqi and allied pullout from the Gulf region.

U.N. officials, meanwhile, have been drawing up contingency plans for a peacekeeping role that could include supervision of troop withdrawals, possible creation of a buffer force, reconstruction and rehabilitation, and refugee aid.

Diplomats said council consultations could continue for several days until Iraq's U.N. ambassador returns from consultations in Moscow with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov was expected to call a meeting or at least informal consultations at which time the United States and other allies were expected to present their conditions for peace. But diplomats said Mr. Vorontsov had not yet received instructions from Moscow.

There was uncertainty about what the council could do even after it was briefed on the Soviet proposals.

"Any ceasefire will have to come from the allied coalition fighting the war," said a Western diplomat on the council. "The United Nations authorised war but didn't declare war on Iraq so can't declare a ceasefire either."

Another said he believed the Soviet plan "was the beginning of the end but only the beginning and it's quite a long end."

China, one of the council's five permanent members with veto power, said it had always stood for unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf

Bush wants Iraq to begin pullout by today evening

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — President George Bush Friday brushed off a Soviet plan for peace in the Gulf and demanded that Iraq start pulling out of Kuwait unconditionally by noon EST (1700 GMT) Saturday under threat of an imminent ground attack by the allies.

The ultimatum gives Iraq one week to withdraw all of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi troops that have occupied Kuwait since last Aug. 2.

The allies want a tight time-frame for withdrawal to force Iraq to leave tanks, heavy artillery and other weapons behind and thus reduce Baghdad's future military power.

Angry accusing Iraq of starting a "scorched-earth policy" by torching Kuwaiti oil resources, Mr. Bush issued the ultimatum after hurried overnight consultations with all U.S. allies in the Gulf war.

The coalition will give Saddam Hussein until noon Saturday to do what he must do — begin his immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait," the president said in a statement read to reporters in the White House Rose Garden.

The White House specified later that Mr. Bush meant noon Saturday Washington time — 8 p.m. local time in Baghdad.

Mr. Bush left it to spokesman

Marlin Fitzwater to read the very detailed withdrawal terms within the ultimatum, which said Iraq's choice was to comply or face a land war against the Western-Arab allies who now have about 735,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen deployed in the Gulf region.

"We are holding off on the ground war pending this opportunity, and we will wait and see what happens and then make those decisions (on an invasion)," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Pressed on whether that meant the land war would start automatically on Saturday if Iraq ignored the deadline, he dodged a specific reply, saying:

"We obviously are not going to telegraph in advance when we're going to start the ground force actions. We want to give (Iraq) the opportunity to take advantage of this... offer."

U.S. military spokesman said again Friday that coalition forces were primed and ready to invade on signal.

The U.S. terms were given to Iraqi diplomats in Washington.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev telephoned Mr. Bush Thursday evening Washington time to outline an eight-point peace plan including a "full and unconditional withdrawal" which he said Iraq had accepted in principle.

"The Soviet announcement

(Continued on page 5)

Libya to accept stranded Gazans

By S. Rajashri and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Libya has offered to accept Palestinian residents of Kuwait who are stranded in the emirate as a result of non-recognition of their travel documents by Egypt and the Israeli occupation authorities, informed sources said Friday.

The Libyan move came in response to intervention by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The sources said, it was not immediately known what kind of arrangement Libya was offering.

"We have been informed that Libya is willing to accept all Arabs, particularly Palestinians from Gaza, who are denied entry to other countries because of non-recognition of travel documents," said one of the sources. "Arrangements are being made to set up passage for those who wish to go to Libya," added the source.

Jordan will be issuing its own laissez passer to those who wish to take advantage of the Libyan offer, the source said. The first of such documents

was issued Wednesday to a Gazan who originally held Egyptian documents and he is expected to leave for Libya this week. A copy of the three-month-valid document made available to the Jordan Times indicated that he had entered Jordan on Nov. 17, 1990.

The source said the Gazan had travelled to Egypt on his original laissez passer, but the Egyptian authorities had confiscated the document and expelled him back to Jordan.

Libyan diplomats in Amman were not immediately available for comment, but a North African source confirmed that Tripoli had conveyed its position to its partners in the Arab Maghreb Union — Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania — during a recent meeting of their foreign ministers.

"It was widely welcomed by all members of the union," said the source. "The Libyans said they were also ready to accept Somalis and nationals of

(Continued on page 5)

King welcomes Soviet move and Iraqi response

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday welcomed the Soviet initiative to end the Gulf war and Iraq's acceptance of the plan and hoped that peace in the Gulf would open "a bright and new chapter in the history of this Arab Nation."

"I am full of optimism and hope at developments at hand," the King told reporters at Marka airport after bidding farewell to Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir. "I hope we are at an end to darkness and are witnessing the

breaking of a new dawn."

The King Friday met separately with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the U.S., the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain — and informed them of Jordan's response to the Soviet plan. King Hussein asked the ambassadors to convey to their governments Jordan's backing of the Soviet peace plan based on Security Council resolutions.

The King also summoned Arab ambassadors to Jordan and told them of Jordan's backing of the

new chapters in inter-Arab relations would open.

The King also telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, informing them of Jordan's full support of the peace plan and hoping peace in the Gulf will help "restore Arab solidarity," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The King also exchanged views on developments in the region with former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Petra said.

The King told the ambassadors

(Continued on page 5)

King pays tribute to Rafsanjani

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani thanking him for his efforts aimed at ending the Gulf war and reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

King Hussein expressed appreciation of Mr. Rafsanjani's contribution to peace efforts and to crystallising them into the Soviet peace plan, "which we consider a distinguished achievement and a positive step towards what we all aspire to — assuring security and peace in the Gulf region."

"The Soviet peace plan and Iraq's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 have brought all the parties to the conflict to a historical point where they can choose to have war or peace," King Hussein said. "Iran's efforts, stemming from its keen interest on safeguarding higher Islamic interests, will be appreciated by everyone," he added.



His Majesty King Hussein with Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir (Petra photo)

Bashir ends visit, lauds Jordan's stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudan's head of state Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir Friday concluded a two-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the latest developments in the Gulf war and the efforts made to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Gen. Bashir was seen off at the airport by King Hussein. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and senior civil and military officials.

In a departure statement, Gen. Bashir said his talks with the King dealt with the current situation in the Gulf. He described the Jordanian and Sudanese views on the issue as identical. He added that Jordan's stands "are honourable to all Arabs."

We all know the dangers Jordan is facing and the plans hatched against it," he said. "Yet, Jordan has never budged or has never thought even for a single

peace and is working seriously to support the Soviet initiative and facilitate its success, but not out of fear of (U.S. President George) Bush's threat," the RCC said in a statement.

The RCC denied accusations made by Mr. Bush that Iraq was pursuing a "scorched-earth policy" in Kuwait, deliberately destroying oil and economic installations in the emirate. It called for the formation of a United Nations committee to probe into these charges.

The statement was aired in Arabic on Baghdad Radio, while an Information Ministry official

read a shorter version in English to reporters at Baghdad's Al Rashid hotel.

"Iraq is for peace and is working to facilitate the success of the Soviet initiative," the statement said. Mr. Bush, it said, is responding to the Iraqi offers with a "shameful ultimatum."

"Bush might have been hasty to adopt a stance so he may enjoy his weekend holiday," the statement said. It added that the U.S. president's latest threat reflected the "evil intentions and desire for the continuation of the aggression."

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PLO hails Iraqi acceptance of Soviet plan, says linkage exists

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Gulf ground war could be bloody, frustrating for allies

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON — A ground war for control of Kuwait, which seems increasingly likely, could be a frustrating, bloody affair despite weeks of punishing allied air attacks against entrenched Iraqi troops, U.S. military officials say.

Even if American-led coalition forces use speedy armoured columns and highly mobile airborne and amphibious troops in coordinated drives to encircle Iraqi troops and artillery, close combat will take a toll on the attackers.

"It's not going to be a snap ... war is a bloody thing," army Lieutenant-General Tom Kelly, a senior official with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters this week.

"I can still draw up 15 scenarios every day that will cause us a lot of problems," Gulf U.S. commander General Norman Schwarzkopf told the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

Senior Pentagon officials, who asked not to be identified, stressed there were still a half-million Iraqi troops in and near Kuwait and that minefields, chemical artillery shells, tanks and bunkers were likely to slow and frustrate the allies.

"Even if you don't take them head-on, it will probably by frustrating at points to say the least. Don't look for this thing to be over in a week," said one of the officials.

The officials refused to give any hint at the timing for a ground war after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein vowed in a

speech on Thursday that his country would continue the struggle in the Gulf war, confident of victory.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater implied President George Bush had not yet made a final decision on when to launch a ground offensive.

Gen. Jenkins, who commands an amphibious force that has been at sea for six months, said possible operation for his troops included a full-scale landing, one or more limited operations or even a decoy assault or feint to tie down coastal defence troops while allied ground forces launched attacks elsewhere.

He said that much of the Kuwaiti coastline is urban and that buildings, many of them fortified by Iraqi troops, would be targets for naval gunfire and air strikes before marines hit the beach.

In Saudi Arabia on Thursday, U.S. Marine Brigadier-General Richard Neal suggested that fighting to liberate Kuwait City, for example, could be very difficult.

"They (Iraqis) have woven themselves into the very fabric and structure of Kuwait City," he told reporters.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Colin Powell and his Gulf commanders stress that mobility and air power are keys to isolating and chopping up Iraqi defenders, many of them in underground bunkers.

"I'm not going to go stupidly into what Iraq believes is its strength ... we will go against its weaknesses with our strengths," Sen. Powell told reporters returning from a visit to Saudi Arabia last month.

7 U.S. soldiers killed

RIYADH (AP) — A U.S. army helicopter on a medical evacuation mission crashed in bad weather in western Saudi Arabia, killing seven soldiers, the U.S. command said early Friday.

A statement by the command provided few details of the crash, which happened before dawn Thursday. The area where it occurred has been hit in recent days by a series of shamsals, or sandstorms, that typically occur this time of year.

According to unofficial records, the crash was the deadliest U.S. non-combat air crash since the allies began bombing Iraqi forces on Jan. 17, and raised the number of airmen killed in non-combat incidents to 22.

In the worst previous accident, the crash of a Marine Corps UH-1 Huey helicopter on Feb. 1 killed four crewmen.

In an accident that occurred before the allied bombing campaign began, a U.S. C-5 cargo plane crashed on Aug. 29 while taking off from Ramstein air base in West Germany, killing 13 of 17 people aboard. The plane had been headed to the Gulf region.

An investigation of the crash was under way, the command said.

Two American soldiers

U.S. soldiers rob car crash victims

NEAR THE SAUDI BORDER (R) — War has brutalised at least some of the U.S. soldiers fighting in Operation Desert Storm, according to Staff Sergeant Joe Ray.

He said he was driving along the main supply route towards the Gulf war front lines two weeks ago when he had to swerve off the road to avoid an oncoming tanker truck.

The vehicle behind him — the new version of the army jeep known as Humvee — hit a concrete drainage ditch and rolled over.

TBE passenger, a woman soldier, was thrown through the windscreen while the driver remained trapped inside the wreck.

Sgt. Ray, who is assigned to the vehicle pool of the 13th evacuation hospital, wrapped the woman in a sleeping bag and was about to pull the driver from the Humvee when a bus pulled up.

Several GIs got off but none offered to help. Instead, they began looting the Humvee, Sgt. Ray said.

One soldier, he recalled, tried to lift the driver's legs to take packs of cigarettes. Others began to drag off the sleeping bag.

"I don't think they realised that she was in it," Sgt. Ray said.

Apache chief fired after 'friendly fire'

SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — The commander of a battalion of Apache helicopters has been relieved of his post after he mistakenly fired on two U.S. armoured vehicles, killing two American soldiers, officials said Thursday.

Officers in the division said army Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Hayles had violated division guidelines that commanding officers were not to personally engage enemy forces.

Col. Hayles had been flying the Apache with the same crewmen for 15 months. He had been involved in aviation modernisation for 12 years in the army.

The two American soldiers

were killed Sunday while a division task force was conducting screening operations just inside the Iraqi border and was attacked by an armoured column. U.S. troops returned fire with tow missiles and artillery, then called in the Apaches for closer support.

Two Iraqi tanks were reported destroyed. There were no American casualties at the hands of the Iraqis. Six soldiers were wounded.

The division said in a statement released at the time that the Apache crew "is a well disciplined and trained crew."

In an interview last month, Col. Hayles said aggressive use of the Apaches would ultimately re-

duce American battlefield casualties.

"I think opportunities exist to use the Apache right from the start," he said. "I think we have a big licence to go out there and maximise our technological advantages to minimise casualties. I'd like to see some bold use of the Apaches."

Col. Hayles said in the same interview last month that the U.S.-led coalition was employing a variety of methods to prevent mistakes.

"We have two methods of fire control," he said. "If we fly beyond where friendly forces are, the vehicles are in enemy territory, a free fire zone, and we see

one method, he said, was for one helicopter to fly forward and make an identification while another remained farther back, ultimately to fire if a target proved to be the enemy.

Asked if it was easy for helicopters to get confused in the heat of battle, he said that "the Apache always knows where it is, and where the edge of the American forces are. Those are precise measurements. I have a high confidence we won't shoot coalition forces."

He said the national intelligence agencies estimate that 10 to 16 per cent of Iraq's tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers in Kuwait and southern Iraq have

been rendered inoperable, said another intelligence source who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Some diplomats believe Tehran might keep some of the Iraqi planes as delayed reparations for Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran.

Capt. Kok said allied radars had detected the Iraqi planes flying from base to base in Iran. A surprise Iraqi attack was not like that, but had to be considered seriously, he said.

High Iranian mountain paratroopers to the Gulf could allow low-flying planes to speak up undetected and cut down the time-allowed air-defence ships would have to respond.

"You can't look through the mountains with your AWACS (early warning radar planes). They could follow an overland route, fly low behind the mountains, let's say without the consent of Iran, turn right, and we would have two minutes warning," he said.

Two minutes would be enough "but it would be hectic," he said. Capt. Kok said U.S. commanders had also asked the Dutch navy to send more minesweepers after two U.S. warships were damaged by floating mines in the Gulf this week, the first such incident of the war.

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Iraqi mines, air force still big threat'

ABOARD DUTCH FRIGATE (R) — A Gulf allied naval commander says mines at sea and Iraq's surviving air force, much of it now in Iran, remain serious threats to allied ships as long as the Gulf war lasts.

Captain Pieter Kok, commander of the three ships operating with the U.S. carrier taskforce in the Gulf, said that monitoring planes which had fled the war zone into Iran was a main concern of the allied navies.

"The air force of Iraq has not been fully destroyed. It is still there. The better part has evacuated to Iran for as yet unknown purposes," he said in an interview on his flagship, the Dutch warship Jacob Van Heemskerk.

Iraq, neutral in the conflict, has officially confirmed that 22 Iraqi warplanes have taken refuge in Iran and has repeatedly said it will keep all these planes until the end of the war.

Neither Iran, nor Iraq, has given a firm reason for the mass flight of Iraq's air force and the allies remain uneasy about the large number of its combat planes in Iran within easy striking distance of the large naval forces in the Gulf.

Diplomats in Tehran, however, believe Iran would not want to spoil its carefully constructed neutral image by allowing Iraqi planes to operate out of its territory.

One senior Western diplomat suggested another reason for the difference in numbers: "If you admit only 22 planes, then at the end of the war you only have to give 22 planes, back."

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Sgt. Ray, 41, from Madison, Wisconsin, was appalled.

"You see people in need and what do you do? You want to steal sleeping bags? I can expect that from my enemy but, damn, I don't expect that from Americans like that?"

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Parliamentarians to try to reverse Turkish, Pakistani stand on war

AMMAN (J.T.) — It is hoped that Turkey will re-consider its present policy with regard to the Gulf war and refrain from allowing America to use Turkish territory from which to raid Iraq, sources said Dr. Ismael Al Farhan, member of the Upper House of Parliament.

DR. Farhan, who left Amman at the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation for visits to Turkey and Pakistan, said that he would hold talks not only with government officials in the two countries but also with parliamentarians to discuss the Gulf situation.

The delegation's visit was to have taken place two days earlier jointly with a Palestinian delegation, but due to last-minute complications the visit was deferred.

Farhan is accompanied by two deputies: Dr. Ali Al Fagir and Dr. Khalafat and carrying a message from the Speaker of the

Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabyat, to the speakers of the Pakistani and Turkish parliaments. The message deals with the Gulf issue, Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the war, and efforts for settling the crisis through peaceful negotiations.

Farhan said in a statement before his departure that he would explain to the leaders and parliamentarians of the two countries that world Zionism would be the only beneficiary of the devastating war on Iraq and he would stress that the Arab and Islamic nations should remain united in the face of attempts to impose foreign domination on the Arab and Islamic countries.

Farhan expressed hope that the contacts would result in a decision by Pakistan to pull out its troops from the coalition now deployed in the Arabian Peninsula.



IN SUPPORT OF IRAQ: Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday evening attended a folklore and cultural performance at the Al Hussein Youth City organised by local charitable and folkloric organisations. Proceeds of the performance, which included national songs and dabkeh dances as well as other folkloric activities, would go to a special

committee set up to channel contributions to the Iraqi people and the Jordanian People's Army.

Attending the performance with the Queen were Princess Alia Al Faisal, the wife of the army chief of staff and other officials as well as the wife of the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

Jordanian wants to expose Bush as international cowboy criminal

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fawzi Muhtasseb lost his wife and five children last week when the U.S.-allied planes bombarded the Amriyeh shelter in Baghdad, and his family vowed to see President George Bush and his government for what they believe was a crime.

The lawyer representing the Jordanian family said on Thursday that the U.S. government, headed by Bush, was responsible for the death of six members of the Muhtasseb family and other civilian families, and that the American president must be brought to justice.

"Those responsible must be brought to justice for the inhuman and vicious crime against the Amriyeh shelter, which killed those children and their mothers, along with hundreds of civilians in the shelter last week," said attorney Azmi Muhtasseb, who is also a relative of the victims.

Speaking at a press conference at the parliament building, the lawyer said that they would not ask for material compensation. "We want the simple... of things: To bring this man Bush before the world and show the crime he and his allies have committed. We want to see him for the sake of the (Arab) Nation, not just for the sake of the family," he said.

He added that he would study the case well and prepare to sue the American government and its president "to see if there is any justice and humanity left in international law."

Mr. Muhtasseb accused the American government and their allies of lying about the Amriyeh shelter, saying that there "was nothing military" about it and that it only sheltered civilians escaping U.S.-allied bombard-



Six Muhtasseb family members fell martyrs in Amriyeh massacre



Jordanians killed at the Amriyeh shelter, but the Muhtasseb family was the second family reported to have fallen victim in the raid. A Jordanian mother and four daughters were also killed in the same shelter.

"We all like to have peace. But after the killing of civilian children and women at Amriyeh, the people became vengeful towards America and its friends," Fawzi said.

When asked if he had any other children, he said: "None of my children survived, but all the children of Jordan are my children."

Six enlarged coloured mug shots of the mother and five dark-haired children were posted on a map of the Middle East. Fawzi's brother, Nasi Muhtasseb, pointed at each picture and accused the U.S. and its allies of killing the U.S. and its allies of lying about such claims.

"When my wife and children did not come home the next morning, on Feb. 13, I went to the shelter and found it was flattened to the ground," said the soft-spoken father.

When asked if he would identify the corpses of his family, he just replied, "no," and was unable to elaborate.

There has been no official figure provided on the number of

children killed at the Amriyeh shelter.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Muhtasseb family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday delegated the Assistant Chief of Protocol at the Royal Court to convey his condolences to the Muhtasseb family over the killing of the wife and five children during last week's air raid on the Amriyeh shelter in Baghdad.

Karak forms new AYF board

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth and Culture Minister Khalid Al Karaki Friday decided to form a new board of trustees of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) to run the forum, to prepare for elections and to draw up the forum's statute. The new board includes two members from each of Jordan's eight governorates.

Lower House meets tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat has called the House for session Sunday. The House's Foreign Affairs Committee will also hold a meeting under the chairmanship of Ahmad Inanah to discuss the political situation in the region. The House's administrative committee will meet Sunday to discuss a number of proposals and complaints referred to it by the House.

Inspection uncovers cheating in gas bottles

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on Thursday its teams seized a large number of unsealed gas cylinders stockpiled at one of the gas stores. Following the inspection of the cylinders by team members it was found out that the cylinders were not sealed by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery company and that they were underweight. The owner of the store is arrested and awaits trial.

Oman donates jewellery

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian lady Friday donated her jewellery to support the People's Army and the Iraqi people's

struggle. Farida Ahmad Saleh Al Kayed delivered her jewellery to the head of the People's Committee for Supporting Iraq, in Wadi Seer.

French parliamentarians arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — A French parliamentary delegation Friday arrived in Amman on a short visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on means of putting an end to the Gulf war and establishing a just and durable peace in the region. The team's visit is part of a tour of the countries of the region.

Khreis meets Iraqi aid official

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Arab Doctors Union (ADU), Hassan Khreis, who is also chairman of the Arab Emergency Health Committee, met Friday with the representative of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in Amman, Dr. Amad Khalid Abdul Rahman, in the presence of President of the Jordanian Doctors Association, Dr. Mamoud Abu Hassan and the Rapporteur of the Arab Emergency Health Committee Dr. Muss Abu Hamid. Khreis and Abdul Rahman discussed ways of coordinating efforts between the Arab Health Committee and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and Iraq's needs of Arab medical teams as well as medical and food supplies.

Yemen loads Jordanian oil tanker today

AMMAN (Petra) — Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabet Al Taher Friday received a telephone call from Jordan's ambassador to Yemen informing him that Jordan has officially received the oil tanker which was recently purchased by the government and the Jordan National Shipping Lines Co. The ambassador said the Jordanian flag was hoisted over the tanker. He said loading the ship with 100,000 tonnes of Yemen crude oil will start Saturday. The tanker is expected to arrive at the Port of Aqaba by the end of February. The government purchased the tanker to make up for the expected shortage of oil resulting from reduced supplies from Iraq following the allied bombing raids on trucks carrying Iraqi oil to Jordan.

Economic difficulties hinder comprehensive health scheme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jajjouli blamed the difficult economic and financial situations in Jordan for the delay in the introduction of a general medical scheme covering all citizens in Jordan, but he said that work on the plan was still going on and the Ministry of Health would study all options.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that such a project was bound to cost the treasury a lot of money which is not available at the moment due to the prevailing economic difficulties the country is passing through.

The Health Ministry has conducted a thorough study of the plan in order to ensure medical treatment for the public and private sectors alike and has defined the positive and negative aspects of all systems.

The ministry would now turn its attention to the question of financing this project and to studying reports by experts in health insurance systems and proposed alternatives so that it can take a final decision, Jajjouli noted.

He said that a draft working plan would be published taking into consideration the various views to be submitted to seminars and special discussions before further steps in this direction could be taken.

The minister also blamed present financial difficulties in Jordan for the delay in carrying out plans designed to boost the work of paramedical services in the Kingdom.

The paramedical services are of paramount importance to hospitals and Jajjouli expressed hope that the financial situation would improve to allow the ministry to boost these services at all levels.

Dr. Jajjouli also told Petra of problems and complications regarding importing medicines from abroad. He said that due to the Gulf crisis, additional insurance and freight charges have been imposed on imports, making it almost impossible to bring in medicines except by air. Delays in imports were also forcing the ministry in some cases



FIELD CHECK: Health Minister Adnan Jajjouli during his visit to a Zarqa health centre.

to import only the most essential spare parts and very important medicines for emergency cases by air mail. But as long as the harassment of ships heading for Aqaba continues, the ministry will have to rely more and more on locally produced pharmaceutical products which, the minister said, make up at least 40 per cent of the total needs of the country.

In general, the medical situation in the Kingdom is good despite the difficulties; and the Ministry of Health is maintaining close cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), Jajjouli pointed out.

He said that his recent inspection tour of hospitals and health centres around the country convinced him that the situation was very satisfactory and that sufficient amounts of medicines and medical equipment were available along with staff capable of handling emergency cases in addition to daily duties.

The minister said that special arrangements were under way to coordinate work with the private hospitals in Jordan. He noted that the Health Ministry has drawn up a list of private doctors whose services could be called upon in times of emergency. Referring to transportation and

communications, the minister noted that in addition to the ambulances available at health centres and hospitals, the ministry has converted 80 private cars into mini ambulances and has made arrangements for the emergency use of ambulances owned by the Civil Defence Department and the Royal Medical Service as well as ambulances operated by charitable and voluntary organisations.

He said that the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health have jointly set up a central operations room serving as a base for all contacts with hospitals and remote health centres around the Kingdom.

Jajjouli said that the Health Ministry was drawing up new agreements for coordination with university hospitals in Irbid and Amman concerning the training of new doctors and the treatment of citizens.

Referring to the main hospital in Amman, Al Bashir Hospital, he said that plans were under way for expansion and new units were being introduced to deal with burns, chest diseases, paediatrics and kidney dialysis among others. He said that by the end of the year Al Bashir Hospital would have 700 beds, up from 500 at present.

Iraqi official says relief aid is still badly needed

By Mariam M. Shahim
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An appeal to humanitarian relief organisations around the world to come to the aid of the Iraqi civilian population was issued Thursday by a senior member of the Iraqi Red Crescent.

The alleviation of human suffering among Iraqi civilians, said Amad Khaled Abdul Hameed, the head of external relations at the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, had been sidelined in favour of Red Cross and Red Crescent aid to countries bordering Iraq although the need to alleviate the human suffering in Iraq "is really very urgent."

Abdul Hameed is a Canadian-educated dentist.

In 1988 and 1989 Iraq imported up to \$2 million worth of medicines a day, according to Abdul Hameed. That figure had not been met in a month since the U.N. trade embargo had been imposed on Iraq last August.

Abdul Hameed said that at present Iraq had only enough medicines to last the population three days.

"We in the Iraqi Red Crescent, feel frustrated by the very muted response of the humanitarian organisations to the suffering of Iraq's civilian population," Abdul Hameed told a press conference.

"We feel that the international relief organisations have a great task to live up to their humanitarian responsibilities at this stage... because, as I mentioned, it is evident that the targets at present of the allied assaults are civilians," and that the population was not safe, even in bomb shelters.

Both the Jordanian and the

Iranian Red Crescent societies are working in coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent in order to ensure that humanitarian supplies are delivered to Iraq either through Jordan or Iran.

The Iraqi Red Crescent is negotiating relief services with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well.

With nine delegates in Iraq, the ICRC has managed to send 55 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq via Iran since the war began Jan. 17.

UNICEF, whose regional director visited Iraq last week, has also sent 54 tonnes of medical supplies to Iraq since the war began.

Abdul Hameed said that a lot of aid was needed from the League of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies (LRCRS) and other non-governmental organisations if human suffering in Iraq was to be addressed according to its proportion.

Bala'wan said that he did not bring during his one-week stay in Baghdad in order to conserve the little existing water. Water is being rationed and only used for drinking.

Bala'wan said that he had thought about his own children when he saw the black, charred masses that had once been human beings. His hands shaking, Bala'wan said: "I pray that no one sees what I saw in that destroyed bomb shelter in Baghdad... it will give whoever has seen it, sleepless nights."

Bala'wan added that the stench of death was unbearable and that the corpses on each side of the bombed shelter were enough to give anyone nightmares for a lifetime.

Algerian, Sudanese, Mauritanian, Jordanian and Palestinian doctors and nurses have already gone to Baghdad as volunteers through an Amman-based Arab Health Committee representing various medical associations in the Arab World.

A delegation with two representatives of each Arab medical association is expected to go to Baghdad within ten days, said Abdul Hameed.

Both the Jordanian and the

Tunisian team leaves for Iraq Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Tunisian medical team comprising 23 doctors and nurses plans to leave for Baghdad Sunday carrying three tonnes of medicines and medical equipment for the Iraqi people, according to the vice president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Dr. Mohammad Al Hadid.

Dr. Hadid told the Jordan Times that the group would spend as many days as possible in Iraqi hospitals providing medical treatment to the victims of the allied air raids and people in need

of medical help. He said that the team, headed by Dr. Abdul Jalil Al Rawash, represented the Tunisian Red Crescent Society.

Arrangements were being made through the JNRCS for the team's departure. The relief and medical supplies the team members are carrying would be channelled through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Dr. Hadid noted. He said the team, which arrived in Amman Thursday evening, was coordinating work with the

JNRCS and the Iraqi society. Meanwhile, the Gulf Peace Team announced that it has sent nearly 15 tonnes of urgently needed medical supplies to the Iraqi Crescent Hospital in Baghdad.

The medical supplies included surgical equipment, anaesthetics, antibiotics, infusion sets and bandages. This was the first international relief convoy to reach the civilian victims of the Gulf war from Jordan, according to a Gulf Peace Team statement issued in Amman.

King

(Continued from page 1)

of the five that he hoped their government would react positively and in good faith to the Soviet peace bid.

U.S. President George Bush said Friday his country appreciated the Soviet initiative, but gave Iraq an ultimatum to start pulling its troops out of Kuwait by Saturday noon.

The King told the ambassadors of the five that Security Council members that the details of the peace plan unveiled in Moscow Friday fulfilled the goals of all those involved in the Gulf crisis.

King Hussein paid tribute to the efforts of the Soviet Union, Iran and Iraq to avert the region from catastrophe and devastation.

"Too many wounds have been opened. This is the time to begin to heal them. Too many human losses have occurred. This is the time to put an end to these losses and this is the time to live with hope and a better future," the King said in his airport statement.

"This is the time for statesmanship, for leaders to consider the interests of their people involved in this conflict, and people throughout the world," he added.

"I believe the achievement is a great one, and I'd like to say how much the efforts of all who contributed to this achievement," the King said.

Asked to comment on the absence of a linkage between the Gulf conflict and the Palestine cause, the King said:

"I believe the Palestinian problem is a problem that should be addressed on its own merits. It should have been addressed on its own merits."

Asked at the airport about Mr. Bush's response to the initiative the King said that he believed that the goals of Resolution 660 were on their way to be implemented and hoped that all parties to the conflict would look at the plan through this perspective.

King Hussein told Arab ambassadors he hoped a new era would be ushered and all wounds be healed referring to the divide that befell the Arab World after Aug.

Bashir

(Continued from page 1)

moment of its personal and temporary absence.

"On the contrary, Jordan's major concern was to address Arab and Muslim issues. Jordan's honourable stand has made it incumbent on us in Sudan to respect it and it gives me great pleasure to meet with the King and learn from his opinion and directives."

The Jordanian position and that of the other Arab countries advocating an inter-Arab solution was the right position, the general said.

Gen. Bashir called on "all honorable Arabs" to stand by Iraq and to extend "every possible support to it should the allied forces decide to escalate their aggression against Iraq because all of us know that the aim of the conspiracy is to destroy Iraq's capacities and might."

Asked about his evaluation of the situation now, following Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet peace plan, Gen. Bashir said after Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet plan "there are no justifications for continuing the war."

"If the aim of the aggression is to drive Iraq out of Kuwait, then this aim is no longer valid, and therefore the war should be discontinued," he said.

"However, we know that the aim is not to liberate Kuwait or to force the Iraqi army out of it, but to destroy Iraq," he added.

PLO

(Continued from page 1)

problem was always a political one and was never an issue of timetables as far as we are concerned," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

The Iraqi acceptance was seen by the PLO as an "opportunity to settle the Gulf crisis politically and save the region from catastrophic results," he said.

At a press conference held here last week, stronger terms were used by Mr. Arafat to describe how he viewed "connection."

"Tell the allies that if they want to have O.I.L., then they have to also take P.L.O.," he said in describing that statement as the essence of "the Saddam initiative."

In late December, Palestinian sources said that it was left up to the PLO to decide when they felt enough political ground was covered on the Palestine issue so that linkage, as a formal condition, could be dropped by Iraq as a prerequisite for withdrawing from Kuwait.

Although Arab diplomats at the time could not explain the delay in an expected statement from the PLO to the effect that linkage was already forged, it was later said that the PLO leaders did not make that statement after Iraq told them that war was going to be forced on Baghdad even if the linkage issue was dropped.

A diplomatic source in Moscow told the Jordan Times over the weekend that two senior PLO officials were in the Soviet capital at the same time as the Iraqi foreign minister to "convince Iraq to accept the initiative."

According to the diplomat, who requested anonymity, Yasser Arafat Rabbo and Mahmoud Abbas, two senior PLO officials, were pressing the visiting Iraqi delegation, headed by Tareq Aziz, to accept the Soviet plan even though it contained no reference to the Palestinian problem.

The question being raised here, however, is whether such a proposal would be acceptable to the United States.

Iraqis have been encouraged by positive responses to the Soviet proposal from some European governments. But Iraq is no longer ready to place hopes on breaking the U.S.-led alliance against it, informed sources say.

A well-connected Iraqi source says Baghdad will try to be flexible for two reasons:

— To prove to its people that it has given peace a chance when asking them to make big sacrifices.

— To give the Soviet Union and Iran, which have emerged as the principle mediators and guarantors, a formula to pressure the U.S. to accept a negotiated solution.

Baghdad is cautious not to appear to be the party torpedoing peace efforts, says an Arab diplomat. The leadership is now giving priority to consolidating its home front rather than to political manoeuvres on the international front, he says.

The leadership has learned that its best bet is to keep its people prepared and not depend heavily on either Arab support or dramatic shifts in the position of European countries and the international community," says a Baathist Party official.

The story also ran in the Christian Science Monitor.

boosting morale. "A strong Iraq is awaiting them (the coalition forces) in the battlefield," said yesterday's Al Jumhuriya daily.

People on the street say they are ready for the ground war, which they believe offers a chance to fight their enemies face to face. At the same time, they concede that the continual aerial bombardment is disrupting lives, and they worry about its effect on their children.

"My three-year-old boy clutches me in panic when the raids start. I am concerned about him. Our children are very disturbed and cannot sleep," says Saad, an Iraqi engineer.

Some Iraqis argue that the leadership is in a good position to take a conciliatory stand now that it has proved Iraqi forces can hold out and not be crushed in a few days, as some Western military experts had predicted. But they say it is unlikely Iraq will accept a humiliating peace.

Details of the Soviet proposal were not available here. But Iraqis have heard unconfirmed reports on Radio Monte Carlo that the proposal involves an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, followed by a pullout of coalition forces from the Gulf region.

The proposal also purportedly guarantees Iraq's security, territorial sovereignty, and economic and security interests in the region.

Arab analysts here say such an outline would be acceptable to the Iraqi government, especially if the Soviets succeed in establishing linkage, at least in principle, between the Gulf crisis and other regional conflicts, particularly the Palestinian problem.

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Mood

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad anyway? Why are they shelling civilians? Why do they not fight at the battle front?" asks Taleb Abbas, who lost nine family members in the bombing.

The Iraqi leadership seems to be aware of the mood. Over the past 72 hours, the state-run media have tried to prepare the public for major sacrifices. Commentaries in newspapers and on radio are aimed at readying the population for the toughest round of battle yet: The ground assault.

"We are approaching the mother of all battles," said an editorial in Al Thawra newspaper Tuesday.

The editorials also aimed at

added. "They also said only humanitarian considerations and no politics were behind the offer."

International relief officials said repatriation agencies were willing to arrange passage for those seeking shelter in Libya. "It is a human tragedy and we are indeed here to help them," said the chief of mission of an international agency in Amman who also preferred anonymity.

The problem of Gazans stranded in Kuwait developed after Egypt, whose laisser passe most of them held, said that it would not recognise the documents, according to officials.

But a senior Egyptian diplomat maintained that Cairo had not imposed a blanket ban on Gazans using its territory to enter the occupied Gaza Strip.

"We are asking for individual applications from all those who want to travel to Gaza, and permissions are granted by the Ministry of Interior on a case-by-case," said the diplomat, preferring anonymity.

However, Jordanian officials and international relief officials said there have been very few cases where Egypt had granted such permission. The Egyptian position is seen as an expression of anger in response to the support that the PLO and the Palestinian community in general have extended to Iraq in the Gulf crisis, where Cairo leads the Arab camp in the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition.

As a result, as many as 65,000 Gazans, many of whom possess documents dating back to 1967 when Israel occupied the strip, and some others who have the right of residence in Egypt, are believed to remain in Kuwait since authorities demand that all Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip can return only through the same exit they used to depart: In the case of many Gazans, the Al Arees crossing in the Sinai.

Those who used the bridges across the River Jordan to leave the occupied territories are allowed to return by the same route.

Since July 1988, when it severed legal and administrative links with the West Bank, Jordan has been issuing two-year temporary passports to Gazans — in addition to permanent residents of the West Bank — to facilitate their travel and work outside the occupied territories. These passports do not entitle the holders to Jordanian citizenship; nor do they oblige the holders to serve in the armed forces or pay taxes.

"We would like to help those stranded people, but we do not want a situation where they get stuck in Jordan with nowhere to go," said a senior official commenting on the Gazans in Kuwait.

"We have no problems with Palestinians holding Syrian or Lebanese documents but it is indeed a problem with those who possess Egyptian documents," he told the Jordan Times, while confirming that many Gazans were turned back from the Al Ruweished border post with Iraq since the Gulf crisis erupted in August and a higher number since the war erupted last month.

The Jordanian position is interpreted by analysts and Western diplomats as a reflection of their positions of Aug. 1 in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 660.

6. In cooperation with the International Red Cross, Iraq must release all prisoners of war and "third-country citizens" and return the remains of dead servicemen. This action must begin immediately with the start of the withdrawal and be completed in 48 hours.

7. Iraq must remove all explosives or booby traps, including those on Kuwaiti oil installations, and designate Iraqi military liaison officers to work with Kuwaiti and other coalition forces on the withdrawal's operational details.

8. Iraq must cease combat air fire, aircraft flights over Iraq and Kuwait, except for transport aircraft carrying troops out of Kuwait, and allow coalition aircraft exclusive control over and use of all Kuwaiti air space.

9. Iraq must cease all destructive actions against Kuwaiti citizens and property, and release all Kuwaiti detainees.

10. The United States and its coalition partners will not attack retreating Iraqi forces, and will exercise restraint so long as withdrawal proceeds in accordance with the above guidelines and there are no attacks on other countries.

11. Any breach of these terms will bring an "instant and sharp response" from coalition forces.

tion of several factors, including fears that tens of thousands of Palestinians from Gaza could get stranded in Jordan without any international or Arab guarantee that they could go home, that a precedent could be set which would be exploited by Israeli leaders who still nurse the "Jordan is Palestine" theory, that other Gulf states could move to expel Palestinians to the Kingdom, and that the influx of any massive number of Palestinians would only contribute to further exacerbate the Kingdom's fragile economy.

"The Soviet leadership expects a reply any minute," Mr. Ignatenko told reporters.

Adding to the confusion over just what had been agreed was a warning from Gorbachev personal envoy Yevgeny Primakov to the U.S. not to reject the plan, which he called a major success in the eyes of the world.

"It is really taking shape and if at this moment it is broken down by war then the responsibility will lie with those who start the war," he said in a television interview.

President Gorbachev meanwhile contacted the member nations to the U.N. Security Council to discuss the new peace proposal.

Soviets

(Continued from page 1)

thanked the Soviets for their first peace plan but said it had too many conditions.

The U.S. demand calls for Iraq's withdrawal to be completed in one week, and for the release of all prisoners of war to be released within 48 hours.

The Soviet plan did not mention several provisions of the U.S. plan, such as a removal of booby traps and mines, and a cessation of combat flights over Kuwait except to transport withdrawing forces.

Mr. Aziz and his Soviet counterpart, Alexander Bessmertnykh, met for 2½ hours at a government guest house in downtown Moscow, and Mr. Aziz was to meet President Gorbachev Saturday morning.

Mr. Ignatenko had told a news conference before the Aziz-Bessmertnykh meeting that the Iraqis had accepted an eight-point peace plan Mr. Gorbachev proposed at a midnight meeting.

The new plan has already been

Following is the revised Soviet plan:

— Iraq would implement U.N. Resolution 660, calling for an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, without delay and without conditions.

— The withdrawal would begin a day after a ceasefire.

— The withdrawal would be completed 21 days after the ceasefire.

— After withdrawal, all other Security Council resolutions will be lost their meaning and be rescinded.

— Prisoners of war would be released within 72 hours after the ceasefire begins.

— Supervision of the withdrawal would be conducted by a peacekeeping force determined by the Security Council.

— Following is a set of conditions set earlier by the U.S.

1. Iraq must begin large-scale withdrawal from Kuwait by noon EST (1700 GMT), Saturday, Feb. 23.

2. Iraq must complete military withdrawal in one week.

3. Within the first 48 hours of withdrawal, Iraq must remove all its forces from Kuwait City and allow for the prompt return of the "legitimate" government of Kuwait.

4. Iraq must withdraw from all prepared defences along the Saudi-Kuwaiti and Saudi-Iraq borders, from Bubiyan and Warbah Islands, and from the Rumaila oil field.

5. Within the one week specified, Iraq must return all its forces to their positions of Aug. 1 in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 660.

6. In cooperation with the International Red Cross, Iraq must release all prisoners of war and "third-country citizens" and return the remains of dead servicemen. This action must begin immediately with the start of the withdrawal and be completed in 48 hours.

7. Iraq must remove all explosives or booby traps, including those on Kuwaiti oil installations, and designate Iraqi military liaison officers to work with Kuwaiti and other coalition forces on the withdrawal's operational details.

8. Iraq must cease combat air fire, aircraft flights over Iraq and Kuwait, except for transport aircraft carrying troops out of Kuwait, and allow coalition aircraft exclusive control over and use of all Kuwaiti air space.

9. Iraq must cease all destructive actions against Kuwaiti citizens and property, and release all Kuwaiti detainees.

10. The United States and its coalition partners will not attack retreating Iraqi forces, and will exercise restraint so long as withdrawal proceeds in accordance with the above guidelines and there are no attacks on other countries.

11. Any breach of these terms will bring an "instant and sharp response" from coalition forces.

The new plan has already been

sent to Baghdad for approval, the spokesman said.

asked if the Soviets still supported the anti-Iraq coalition.

In his statement, Mr. Bush said

the Soviet proposal on its face

seemed more reasonable than a

"defiant, uncompromising

address" by President Saddam Hussein on Baghdad Radio Thursday, when he said Iraq would fight on in "the mother of

all battles."

But Mr. Bush, who also spoke

before the latest announcement

Goalkeepers hold key to vital England soccer title game today

LONDON (R) — The race to prevent Liverpool winning the English first division soccer title reaches a crucial stage Saturday when Arsenal and Crystal Palace meet at Highbury.

The match will help determine which of the two London clubs poses the biggest threat to Liverpool's current three-point lead at the top. It also adds spice to a goalkeeping argument which could run for many years.

Arsenal's David Seaman and Palace's Nigel Martyn, both rivals for the England number one jersey, have played vital parts in their sides' respective successes and are two of the reasons why Liverpool are still within range of the chasing pack.

Seaman, signed for £1.2 million (\$2.3 million) from Queen's Park Rangers last year, has conceded just 12 goals in Arsenal's 24 league games to date.

Martyn, a fellow England squad member along with Glasgow Rangers' Chris Woods, has been equally impressive of late, keeping six clean sheets in Palace's last nine games.

Those statistics are scarcely en-

couraging for strikers on either side but Palace captain Geoff Thomas believes Arsenal are also a formidable attacking force.

"They used to be called boring but they're far from that now," said Thomas. "They are a good team, they're compact and their style is very attack-minded now."

A win for either club will leave them in second place behind Liverpool who travel to Luton still recovering from their epic 4-4 F.A. Cup draw with Everton Wednesday.

England striker Peter Beardsley is still not a definite starter for Liverpool, despite his two goals against Everton.

Another England player David Platt of Aston Villa sits out his team's game against Nottingham Forest after deciding not to rush his return to action following a groin injury.

"It would be foolish to risk him for one match if there was a chance of causing extra damage," said Villa Assistant Manager Peter Withe.

Leeds United and Manchester United, in fourth and fifth posi-

tions in the league table, meet Sunday in the second leg of their league cup semifinal at Elland Road.

Trailing 2-1 from the first encounter at Old Trafford, Leeds escaped any injuries in a midweek round replay, described as "one of the greatest cup ties" by Everton Manager Howard Kendall.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish was disappointed his side's brilliant finishing was marred by a series of uncharacteristic defensive blunders.

"We showed three great examples of how to score goals — and three bad examples of how to defend. But that's what goes to make an exciting cup tie," he said.

Dalglish is almost certain to call on England striker Peter Beardsley, who scored twice against Everton on his recall to the starting line-up after a two-month absence.

But Liverpool are again likely to be without injured international midfield trio Steve McMahon of England and Ray Houghton and Ronnie Whelan from Ireland.

"I admire them immensely because of the quality of their play-

Dalglish to retire as Liverpool manager

LONDON (R) — Kenny Dalglish is to retire as manager of English soccer champions Liverpool, club chairman Noel White said Friday.

Scottish Dalglish, 39, took over the job in 1985 after the Heysel Stadium disaster and guided Liverpool to the English League and F.A. Cup double in 1986.

Dalglish, whose salary at Liverpool has been estimated at around £200,000 (\$390,000) a year, said the pressure of the job had led to his decision.

"The biggest problem was the pressure I was putting myself under in my desire to be successful," he said.

"I felt it would be wrong to

mislead everybody into thinking that everything was fine with myself. There is no animosity between me and the club. This is something I felt was right."

Liverpool currently lead the first division table by three points.

An emotional Dalglish said he had informed the Liverpool board of his decision Thursday morning, the night after his side had been involved in an epic 4-4 fifth round draw with neighbours Everton in the F.A. Cup.

"It's the first time I have made a decision that's been more beneficial to Kenny Dalglish than to Liverpool Football Club and everyone else connected with it," he said.

Coach predicts another title for Bayern Munich

By Reuters

BAYERN Munich coach Jupp Heynckes will be praying his team can live up to his bold prophecies when they visit Bayer Leverkusen at the weekend after the German Bundesliga winter break.

Heynckes has firmly dismissed suggestions that the Bavarians may not be capable of winning a record 13th championship, saying his team would prove their worth against the leading challengers.

"The title will be ours simply because we will win the important matches against the immediate challengers like Kaiserslautern and Bremen," he said.

Bayern, one point behind leaders Werder Bremen, will need to live up to his words against a team regarded as dark horses for the title despite being eighth, six points behind the leaders.

Leverkusen held Bayern to a 1-1 draw in Munich on the opening day of the season.

European soccer

Werder have an easier task at home to Wattenscheid, who have survived well in the middle of the table after promotion last season.

Third-placed Kaiserslautern, who are only two points behind the leaders with a game in hand, meet Hamburg at home.

Juventus coach Gigi Maifredi appeared apprehensive about his future following his side's elimination from the Italian Cup three days after losing ground in the championship race.

Maifredi seemed to offer his resignation after Juventus were beaten 2-0 at home by AS Roma in the cup Wednesday.

"One of our targets has just gone west. We're all annoyed about what's happened, but I assume all the responsibility myself," he said.

"I've told the club that I'm ready for whatever decision they want to take."

Director Enrico Bendoni, however, denied the club were considering sacking Maifredi, adding that Juventus' long-term

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1991

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early get together with any friends you can and you to get what you want the most, then later you have some ambitions secret longing to be done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your ingenious approach at what is expected of you by some attachment is excellent but talk it over with one that knows so you benefit.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are now able to show your own family you are up to date in knowing the things that will please and bring plenty.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now find your mind is working overtime on some brilliant plan that can extend your horizons whether they be in personal or practical matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day to study quickly the ways and means to bring a greater amount of abundance to yourself by your most interest gifts.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today she or he has a lot of brilliant insight into how to get ahead and operate best with those of different birth and extraction to theirs. This over articulate child will need to learn the value of listening to what others have to say and to seeing just how it is that they reach their goals.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

Novotna rolls into Oklahoma quarterfinals

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (R) — Top seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia crushed South African Elina Reinach 6-1 6-2 to roll into the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma Tennis Tournament.

In the quarters, the eighth-ranked Novotna will take on

Swedish seventh seed Caterina Lindqvist, who rallied to hold off 17-year-old Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico 2-6 7-6 6-4.

Lindqvist, ranked 34th in the world, took the second set tiebreak 7-3 and never looked back as she sailed through the deciding set.

Sports in brief

Crippled S. African yacht sinks

PUNTA ARENAS, Chile (AP) — A South African yacht crippled while participating in a roundworld international regatta has sunk in South Pacific Ocean waters, and its skipper, John Martin, was rescued, the navy reported. The navy in this city 2,200 kilometers south of Santiago, said it received a radio report indicating that the yacht, the Ally End Bank, sank some 1,800 kilometers from the west end of the Strait of Magellan. Martin, a retired South African Navy officer, was rescued by his countryman Brearie Reed, skipper of the Grinacker, another yacht participating in the race. Martin had reported last Tuesday that his boat had been crippled after colliding with an iceberg. He had requested assistance to sail to Punta Arenas for repairs. The regatta, which sailed off Sydney, Australia, on Feb. 4, involves 15 yachts from eight countries, and is due to end by mid-March in Punta Del Este, Uruguay.

Mansell 'christens' new race car

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell personally "christened" the Williams' Grand Prix team's new Renault-powered car with an unscheduled spin during its shakedown test Thursday. Mansell, driving the new FW14 in damp conditions, spun the car when he was on a quick lap during the public test. He said: "I changed down too quickly and the wheels locked up and I spun. 'I went off by only about six feet but it was into some thick mud. All I could do was sit there and get splattered. At least the car is christened now." The team's new car commanded much admiration at the circuit with its sleek new design, a transverse semi-automatic gearbox and its nimble performance. The car is powered by Renault's latest V-10 RSS specification engine. Mansell, who was unhurt in the spin, said he was impressed with the car but did not expect it to show its full potential until after the first two or three races of the season. The team plan to go testing at the Le Castellet Circuit in southern France next week before flying to America for the season-opening U.S. Grand Prix in Phoenix on March 10.

Breaks swimming record

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Mark Tewksbury solidified his standing as a rising swimming star Thursday by twice breaking his own world best time in the 100-meter backstroke in a short course pool at the Canadian Winter National Swimming Championships. The Calgary native covered the 25-meter pool in 53.32 seconds in a morning qualifying heat and shaved that time to 52.89 in the final. The 23-year-old Tewksbury held the world short-course mark of 53.69 coming into the meeting. He set that mark at last year's Canadian championships in Saskatoon. His achievement, however, will not be recognized as an official world record because it was not accomplished in an Olympic-size, 50-meter pool. The official world record of 54.51 was set by American David Berkoff in 1988.

Edberg beats Camporese in Stuttgart tournament

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — Stefan Edberg needed all the experience and confidence of the top-ranked player in the world to overcome Omar Camporese 6-3, 7-6, 7-6, Karl Molvek of Czechoslovakia ousted Christian Bergstrom of Sweden 6-1, 6-3 and Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union upset fifth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-1, 6-1.

Edberg, who regained the no. 1 ranking last week, saved three set points in the second set tiebreak before prevailing 11-9 in one hour, 44 minutes.

In other second-round match-

Sampras retires; Lendl, Chang advance in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras suffered another set-back Thursday when he was forced to retire from his third round match against 15th-seeded Dutchman Mark Koevermans at the \$750,000 U.S. Indoor Tennis Tournament.

Sampras in a five-set final last week in Philadelphia, advanced easily with a 6-2 6-1 win over 16th-seed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands.

But fifth-seeded American Michael Chang had to claw his way through three tough sets to overcome 101st-ranked Canadian qualifier Grant Connell 7-6 6-7 6-4 in two hours 44 minutes.

Connell, a tall lefthander, consistently blocked Chang's passing shots with brilliant volleys to take the second tiebreak 7-4 and force a third set.

Top seed Ivan Lendl, who beat

es, Guy Forget of France, seeking his third title of the year, beat Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 7-6, 7-6, 7-6. Karl Molvek of Czechoslovakia ousted Christian Bergstrom of Sweden 6-1, 6-3 and Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union upset fifth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-1, 6-1.

Edberg is seeded second in the tournament but effectively became the top seed when last year's winner Boris Becker withdrew because of an injury. Becker had been seeded first.

The second-seeded American, who has been troubled with shin splints since winning his first Grand Slam title at the age of 19, had to stop playing while leading 6-2 1-1.

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Gulf war keeps Jordan's economic planning hazy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian economy is on an open-ended transition phase under crisis management and any definite course for the Kingdom's troubled economy depends on how and when the war in the Gulf ends.

Officials and planners say that short-term decisions aimed at sustaining the economy without allowing for further deterioration characterise the status of the Kingdom's finances, plunged into chaos by the Gulf crisis and studded for the moment by international assistance.

"We are unable to draw up any long-term plans, whether in terms of foreign debt servicing or streamlining our imports," said a senior official. "Everything that happens on our east (Iraq) and west (the Israeli-occupied territories and Israel proper) has a direct bearing on our economy," he pointed out.

While the immediate effect of the Gulf war, which began Jan. 17, is still to be felt outside the area of fuel consumption and driving habits, officials foresee further belt-tightening measures as and when they have to draw from the foreign exchange reserves of the cash-strapped Kingdom.

But what Jordan escaped was a serious blow to the value of the Jordanian dinar. Many analysts point out that the war did not have a direct impact on the economy — except a decline in Iraqi oil supply as a result of damages done to Iraqi oil-producing facilities and attacks on Jordan-bound oil tankers — and that the negative effects of the Gulf crisis had already taken their toll on the financial and monetary status of the Kingdom before the war began.

The decline in Iraqi oil supply, however, has had an immediate impact on the economy since Jordan was not paying cash for the imports, but accounted it as repayment of Iraqi debts to the Kingdom.

Jordan was forced to turn to Syria and Yemen for its oil needs — international prices, and this is expected to bring an additional

burden of \$25 million to \$30 million every month on the treasury, officials said.

A part of the damages done to Jordanian exports was addressed by an agreement to sell phosphates to Iran worth \$66 million this year. Additional outlets for Jordanian exports are expected to be opened further with the reopening of the Jordanian and Iranian diplomatic missions in Tehran and Amman and exchange of visits by businessmen.

With the receipt of international assistance and pledges of about \$1.15 billion in the form of long-term loans and outright grants, the foreign exchange reserves at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) remains at a relatively healthy level of around \$750 million (in fact, it is for the first time in four years that the Kingdom's reserves have registered more than \$650 million).

In addition, gold reserves and receivables account for another \$500 million.

Deposits and savings of individuals with commercial banks are estimated at about \$2.5 billion, about half of it in foreign currency. There has been no clear accounting of external accounts maintained by Jordanians, but analysts say it could run into several billion dollars.

The CBJ has said it has no intention whatsoever to move against external accounts held by Jordanians who are residents in the Kingdom.

While officials and economists are optimistic that Jordan would be able to maintain delicate economic rope-trick in the short-term, doubts are cast on that confidence by the realisation that the Kingdom would face grave difficulties when it resumes its suspended servicing of foreign debts and imports go up as a result of declining tension in a post-Gulf-war situation.

Jordan adopted a selective approach to servicing its foreign debts of \$8.3 billion shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August since it was clear that the Kingdom's carefully measured economic moves were totally scrambled by the crisis.

Tens of thousands of Jorda-

nians have returned home, adding to the already high unemployment rate and imposing new demands on the water, power, housing and related infrastructure of the Kingdom.

Studies made by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) indicate that the total loss Jordan and Jordanians suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis amounted to \$8.4 billion — in terms of savings and assets of Jordanian expatriates living in Kuwait and the direct losses to the national economy.

Ironic though it is, the only consolation, as some economists point out, lies in the sharp decline in imports as a result of uncertainties over the Gulf situation and positions posed by the de facto blockade at Aqaba port.

However, in a post-war situation the consumption-oriented Jordanian society will make a heavy demand on the economy by boosting imports, economists say.

Then came the Saudi move to cut off its oil supply to make up for the shortfalls from Iraq and to impose a ban on imports of Jordanian produce as well as the transit through Saudi territory of Jordanian trucks bound for the Gulf states — a traditional market for the Kingdom's products.

The Kingdom's leadership had repeatedly pointed out that its burden of foreign debts — one of the highest per capita in the world — was imposed on it as a result on non-fulfilment of pledges made by Arab states in 1979.

Under these pledges, Jordan was to have received over \$12 billion over 10 years, but it actually received only around \$7 billion while it had borrowed from external sources against the expected full contribution.

"We are survivors and will survive the present crisis if we receive non-political external help with no strings attached," said a senior official, who preferred anonymity.

"Our planners and people have proved this point," he added referring to the state of economy in early 1989, when the Kingdom's reserves reflected a negative balance — appropriation of CBJ-held funds of 35 per cent of all foreign exchange deposits at commercial banks — to the tune of \$100 million.

Paris club of creditor governments.

Mr. Jardaneh has said that a moratorium on Jordanian repayments of principal and interest on its foreign debts would help the Kingdom immensely in its efforts to restore order to its economy and put it back on the right tracks.

But that remains an elusive objective in view of the strain in relations between Amman and Washington, which is sure to twist the arm of international monetary organisations against the Kingdom as implicitly indicated by White House and State Department spokesmen.

One of the major fallout of the Gulf crisis and Jordan's refusal to endorse the American-led "war camp" against Iraq is the cut off in financial assistance from oil-producing Gulf states.

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SINGAPORE (R) — Oil prices are set to fall whether peace breaks out in the Middle East or the United States launches a ground offensive to drive Iraq out of Kuwait, oil industry sources said Friday.

"Whatever happens, the end of the war is in sight," said a trader for a major oil company.

"Once there is decisive strike against Iraq, people will say it's all over," a European trader said. "We may have a bit of a price fluctuation but it will come down lower because of the oversupply."

Once the Gulf war ends, the focus of attention will switch to

the abundant supplies of crude oil hanging over the market, traders say.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is pumping more oil than before the Gulf crisis began, despite the throttling of exports from Iraq and Kuwait.

Oil prices have already lost half their value since the Gulf war started on Jan. 17.

On that day, the price of Britain's internationally-traded Brent blend crude shot briefly up to \$33.50 a barrel. On Friday it fluctuated between \$16.20 and \$16.80 for April, first falling

Traders expect oil prices to fall regardless of Gulf war outcome

down on Iraq's positive response to the Soviet plan, then edging back up due to the cool U.S. reaction.

An all-out ground war is likely to give the market a psychological boost but traders said unless chemical or nuclear weapons were used any gains would be short-lived.

They said the price of Brent could fall to around \$15 when the war was over.

Oil ministers from four key OPEC countries will meet in Vienna Monday to discuss how to stop an oil price collapse.

"They are going to see what can be done when the hostilities

cease and the (oil) market collapses," a senior delegate to the meeting told Reuters Wednesday.

OPEC suspended oil production quotas in September to allow members to boost output to compensate for the gap of more than four million barrels caused by an international boycott on oil from Iraq and Kuwait.

This has actually total group output to actually rise above the level produced prior to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

OPEC's target price for oil, called the "minimum reference" price, is \$21 a barrel.

Saudi prince invests \$590m in Citicorp

NEW YORK (R) — A Saudi Arabian prince has agreed to invest \$590 million in Citicorp, a move that would make him the largest single shareholder in the biggest U.S. bank, Citicorp and news reports said Thursday.

Prince Al Waleed Ben Talal, a member of the Saudi royal family, already owns 4.9 per cent of Citicorp's common stock and could eventually own 14.9 per cent if he converted his new preferred stock holding into common shares.

Citicorp said the placement of \$590 million of convertible preferred shares with the prince would complete the first step of a plan, announced last month, to raise \$1 to \$1.5 billion.

The banking concern has been trying since October to raise that amount of capital from investors.

The prince, 35, is a distant relative of King Fahd. His fortune has been assessed by Forbes magazine at more than \$1 billion, amassed partly through construction, a travel agency business and owning a bank in Saudi Arabia.

According to the New York Times, the prince has said he is

EC parliament approves lending to East Europe

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The European Parliament Friday approved European Community (EC) development loans of up to \$1 billion to Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

The compromise, agreed by member states last week and likely to be endorsed by EC finance ministers on Feb. 25, will clear the lending authority for Eastern Europe but leave the door open for loans elsewhere.

In a separate vote the parliament backed a trade accord with Romania, signed by the Community last October, which would ease curbs on imports and promote cooperation in such fields as agriculture, ecology and science and technology.

Study says low pay in developing nations threatens free trade

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new study foresees a severe stagnation in world trade unless Third World wages are brought closer to those where their small fingers are better able to tie the thousands of knots required.

Representative Donald Pease told congressional panel considering a U.S.-Mexican free trade agreement that jobs in his area are being lost to Third World competition. He would like to be endorsed by U.S. authorities consider the practices Mead described to be unfair trade advantages, subject to retaliation by the United States.

Mead's ideas were criticised by Ben Wattenberg, a former assistant to President Lyndon Johnson who is now a fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

"His conclusion is protectionist and regulatory," Wattenberg said in an interview. "He claims to know best what everybody's regulations should be. But you can't save the market by more intensely regulating it."

Mead had attacked a study by Robert Lawrence and Robert Litan of the Brookings Institution, another public policy group in Washington. They argued that the United States can compete with low-wage countries because American labour is more productive.

"This view misses a historic shift in the global economy," Mead wrote. "Technological change increasingly makes it possible to combine advanced techniques with (low) wage levels."

Romania, Iran sign oil, \$100m agreement

BUCHAREST (AP) — Iran agreed Thursday to sell Romania four million tonnes of crude oil over the next year, about a fifth of the country's total requirements.

The Islamic republic also agreed to process a large amount of its oil in Romania, giving the country's mammoth, moribund refining industry a significant boost. It will also grant Romania \$100 million credit to be used for the purchase of unspecified Iranian products.

The agreement was signed Thursday morning after three days of talks between delegations headed by visiting Iranian Vice President Massoud Roghani Zanjani and Economic Minister Ebrahim Djamarescu.

Djamarescu was quoted by the state news agency Ropress as saying the agreement showed Iran "recognises a friend in need."

Romania currently is in the throes of an energy crisis, as are most of its neighbours in Eastern Europe. Romania's troubles are brought about by the Gulf crisis, a reduction of imports from the Soviet Union, and decreased domestic production.

Iran's oil industry has still not recovered from its devastating eight-year war with Iraq, which

ended in 1988.

Iran agreed to process oil in Romania in the late 1970s, but the plan was derailed by the Iran-Iraq war, leaving Romanian plants built for this purpose partially inactive.

Officials have recently been actively seeking foreign clients for the country's oil-processing industry, which presently does not have enough work to operate efficiently and has therefore been partially shut down.

No further details of the agreement were released.

But high-ranking Romanian officials, speaking on anonymously, said Iran would have at least 12 million tonnes of crude oil processed in Romania over the coming year.

"The Iranians will process enough oil here to enable our industry to operate at full capacity," said an official in the foreign ministry. "It will make Romania Iran's primary distribution point to Eastern Europe as well."

The officials would not say how much Romania will pay for the oil, but Ropress said that it would be in hard currency.

Romania's oil requirement is estimated at around 20 million tonnes yearly, but in recent years it has been getting by with only 12-13 million tonnes.

"Hours are longer, and holidays fewer in developing countries," he wrote. "In Korea some

factory workers average two days off per month. In Morocco, children as young as seven years old work in oriental carpet factories where their small fingers are better able to tie the thousands of knots required."

He also cautioned that it may be unwise to rule out the chance that the recession will deepen, given the uncertainties caused by the Gulf war and problems in the banking industry.

He told the House subcommittee that raising taxes to finance the Gulf war would further damage an economy that already is in recession. It is premature to talk about raising taxes, because U.S. allies have offered to share the

costs of the war, he said. A tax increase "would be unhelpful at this point," he said, adding that he expects a fairly dramatic drop in the U.S. budget deficit in the coming years.

He also told the House panel that the Fed has not been comfortable with some of the dollar's recent weakness and that there have been discussions among the major trading partners to coordinate economic policy in a manner that does not upset currency markets.

Greenspan sees little evidence U.S. credit crunch is easing

WASHINGTON (R) — Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday he sees little evidence that the U.S. credit crunch caused by tighter bank lending is easing, despite cuts in interest rates that are intended to get banks to lend.

In testimony to a House of Representatives banking subcommittee, Greenspan said some banks have been too cautious in their lending practices and in many instances pulled back on

lending to the point that has not been in their own best interests.

"The evidence that the credit crunch is easing off are still very minimal, if at all," Greenspan said.

But in a repeat of testimony that he gave Wednesday to the Senate Banking Committee, Greenspan said concerns over the central bank's ability to counter the credit crunch through its monetary policy are exaggerated.

The U.S. central bank has been lowering interest rates steadily since July in an effort to offset the credit crunch and spur the economy out of recession.

Greenspan offered little new insight into what the central bank's next move will be. But in prepared testimony he repeated statements that he expects the U.S. economy to swing out of recession later this year and inflation

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Russian hardliners act to oust Yeltsin; Moldovan leader quits

MOSCOW (R) — Communist hardliners in the Russian parliament tried to oust Boris Yeltsin as leader in a furious response to his demand for the resignation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The called for an extraordinary meeting of the full Russian parliament with the clear aim of proposing a vote of no confidence in Yeltsin, Gorbachev's political arch-rival.

"Yeltsin's striving for authoritarian rule and confrontation and his desire to decide issues of internal and foreign policy on his own are becoming more and more obvious," said a statement read to parliament by deputy Svetlana Goryacheva.

"He is ruining not only the USSR but also Russia. ... The people are tired of endless promises," said the statement, signed by Goryacheva and three other senior parliamentary leaders.

In a separate development, the president of the southwestern Soviet Republic of Moldova resigned, declaring that he was the victim of a Communist Party

campaign to discredit him.

Mircea Snegur, a former party official now widely regarded as a liberal, said he would stay on as acting president if the Moldovan parliament agreed to direct elections to the presidency.

The move against Yeltsin, in his own Russian power base, came two days after he called for Gorbachev's resignation in a dramatic television interview.

Passions ran high in the debate, during which only one parliamentarian — Yeltsin's first deputy Ruslan Khasbulatov — spoke in his defence. Outside parliament rival groups staged pro-and anti-Yeltsin demonstrations.

Yeltsin was elected Russian president just under a year ago with a narrow majority in the Congress of People's Deputies, the full Russian legislature.

Hardliners in the federal Soviet parliament have accused Yeltsin of declaring "civil war" and Gorbachev delivered a clear attack on his rival in remarks carried by the trade union newspaper *Trud*.

"Someone today is trying to inflame the people," *Trud* quoted

Gorbachev as telling a group of union leaders.

"These people are destroyers, they have no positive programme. Their only aim is to cause a national scandal to achieve their ambitious goals. But today it's very dangerous to rock the boat," he was quoted as saying.

Yeltsin, a former Communist Party boss in the Urals city of Sverdlovsk, was summoned by Gorbachev in 1985 to run the Moscow party organisation and take a seat on the ruling politburo.

But Yeltsin broke with his mentor two years later and, buoyed by popular support, has emerged as his main rival.

The two have clashed repeatedly because of Yeltsin's attempts to curb the power of central Soviet authorities over his Russian Federation, the biggest of the 15 republics.

Yeltsin wants control over Russia's vast resources and freedom to conduct more radical economic reform. Gorbachev says his plans would lead to chaos.

Events seem to be moving fast

towards a final showdown between the two rivals. Resurgent hardline Communists are determined to drive out Yeltsin, who quit the party last July.

Moldova's Snegur said the Communist campaign against him had begun since the appointment of a new party chief, Grigory Yeremey, earlier this month.

The Communists lost power to liberals and radicals in elections last year in Moldova, which has been shaken by confrontation between the majority Romanian-speaking population and Russian and Turkic or Gagauz minorities.

Soviet News Agency (TASS), in a report from the Moldovan capital of Kishinev near the border with Romania, said Snegur also accused the republic's radical Prime Minister Mircea Druck of seeking to reduce the role of the presidency.

Only last week Snegur visited Romania, to which most of Moldova belonged before 1940, and was given a full state welcome by President Ion Iliescu. Many Moldovans are known to favour eventual reunion with Romania.

Seoul opposition chief calls on Roh to resign

CFE talks stalled over 'Soviet intransigence'

VIENNA (AP) — Conventional arms talks stalled Thursday over what delegations from both East and West called Soviet intransigence in complying with a treaty signed last November.

"Twenty-one nations tried to prove that the treaty meant one thing, and the Soviets tried to prove it meant something else," said a member of an Eastern European delegation.

A Western diplomat said no further plenary meetings of the 22 delegations to talks on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) were scheduled until March 21, the day before this round is over.

No working groups are scheduled to meet, but delegations will stay in contact informally and new negotiating session can be called if the Soviet position changes, said the Western official.

Both diplomats spoke on condition they not be identified.

The 16 nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the six Warsaw Pact countries, including the Soviet Union, signed an agreement in Paris last November committing themselves to slashing their arsenals of tanks and other conventional weapons in Europe.

The current round of talks are to focus on the number of soldiers in Europe.

But the West says the Soviets are trying to exclude three motorised infantry divisions of about 1,000 tanks from the Paris treaty by transferring them to naval control, and they have questioned the numbers the Soviets have provided for the weapons they continue to hold.

French leaders clash over new youth cigarette brand

PARIS (AP) — French leaders battled each other over the state-owned tobacco company's embarrassing decision to introduce a new brand of cigarette aimed specifically at young people.

Anti-government rallies were held at two Seoul universities and dissidents and radicals said demonstrations would be held Saturday demanding Roh's resignation.

The scandal is the largest since Roh took office in 1989 and it has tarnished the governing party as the country prepares for elections later this year. Escalating costs and lack of housing are major domestic issues.

Riot police firing tear gas charged into Seoul's Kyunghee University after about 200 students burned an American flag and shouted slogans demanding Roh's resignation.

"Let's overthrow Roh Tae-Woo," students yelled, fighting police with firebombs, rocks and clubs in an hour-long clash. Several injuries were reported, but there were no arrests, police said.

Radical students claim Roh is a puppet of the U.S. government. They frequently burn U.S. flags at anti-government protests.

The opposition leader said his party had obtained a confidential memo allegedly showing Roh's office was implicated in helping win permission for illegal construction in a restricted "green belt" surrounding Seoul.

Nine people, including a presidential aide and five governing and opposition party legislators, have been arrested. They were charged with accepting \$1.4 million in bribes.

The new brand is copied after a line of clothing extremely popular with high-school students, whom the government is officially trying to keep from lighting up.

Seita hopes the cigarette will have the same success. Tobacco shops selling the brand, which came onto the market Monday, say their stocks have been emptied within hours by 15-20 years-olds.

Health Minister Bruno Durieux claims that the introduction of the brand violates a new law to ban cigarette and alcohol advertising.

So does Social Affairs Minister Claude Evin, who shepherded the hard-fought anti-tobacco advertising bill through the National Assembly and Senate. It also significantly curbs alcohol ads.

The new cigarette brand would trickily use the Chevignon clothing label as an advertisement, thus violating the law, Evin says.

Seita and Chevignon, a private company whose clothing brand kinks to the American 1950s, worked out the launch of the cigarette brand together and will share the profits.

The packet of cigarettes bears the brown-and-kaki Chevignon label featuring a propeller aircraft.

Seita responds that it will withdraw the brand only if the courts decide it is violating the law. The clothing company is also awaiting a legal decision.

Charasse said he has no intention of being intimidated by his government colleagues.

"The anti-tobacco law clearly doesn't have the intention of forbidding the consumption and sale of cigarettes and cigars," he said. "The duty of the state is to preserve this industrial tool."

Column 8

'A bang on the head may have killed Mozart'

NEW YORK (AP) — A French scholar believes Mozart died of head injury, not rheumatic fever or poisoning as many thought. The conclusion by anthropologist Pierre-Francois Puech of the University of Provence resulted from his finding a fracture in the skull believed to have been the composer's. Archaeology magazine reports in its March issue. The magazine said Mozart was known to have begun suffering severe headaches in the spring of 1791, more than a year before his death. Puech said the fracture, of the left temple, may have been the result of a fall. Puech found indications that the fracture caused chronic bleeding "that might well account for Mozart's headaches, weakness and fainting that culminated in his coma and subsequent Death on Dec. 5, 1791," the magazine said. Standard references attribute the composer's death at the age of 35 to a return of rheumatic fever he suffered in childhood, combined with excessive bleeding, a common medical practice at the time. His illness and rapid decline gave rise to speculation at the time that he had been poisoned.

The skull is part of an official archive, the Mozarteum, in Salzburg, Austria. It was dug up from Mozart's burial site, just outside Vienna about 10 years after the composer died. The Mozarteum maintains that it has not been established conclusively that the skull is Mozart's.

Japanese to sell imported beef in vending machines

TOKYO (R) — U.S. beef will join the myriad of goods sold from vending machines in Japan when Tokyo scraps its quota on beef imports in April, a company

that the movie and play Amadeus. The skull is part of an official archive, the Mozarteum, in Salzburg, Austria. It was dug up from Mozart's burial site, just outside Vienna about 10 years after the composer died. The Mozarteum maintains that it has not been established conclusively that the skull is Mozart's.

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Explosive toys banned after 3 children injured

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian officials, legal officers and consumer organisations are hunting a new "mini-grenade" sold as a toy, which has injured at least three children so far. A spokeswoman for Cricc, a consumer information centre, said the black plastic toy was still on sale in

Brussels, although the local prosecutor, acting on a complaint from one of the injured children, had banned it distribution. The three victims reportedly suffered hand and face wounds and burns.

The woman said the mini-grenade had the shape of an egg and was apparently made in Italy.

They said the mini-grenade had to be lit by the user who should immediately get away from it.

The spokeswoman said such an explosive device, according to Belgian law, should not be sold to children under age 16, but the mini-grenade was widely distributed like ordinary firecrackers in streetcorner newspaper shops.

The child of a Ministry of Economy official was injured by the toy, which prompted the ministry to lodge a legal complaint.

Woman calls mother to U.S. to cat-sit

RIYADH (AP) — An expatriate New Zealander working as a camerawoman in Saudi Arabia has flown her mother to the United States on a cat-sitting mission. Margaret Moth has been working in the United States since 1980 and last May joined the Cable News Network.

"I really, really wanted to come here to the Gulf," she said. "I finally sent me over on Feb. 10, together with about 30 boxes of gear," she said Wednesday. But Moth had a problem — her cat Fu. The female Persian-Siamese cross was a stray which adopted Moth's apartment as its home. "I rang my mother, Hona Wilson ... and asked her if she would mind living in my Dallas apartment until the war was over," Moth said. "She said, 'all right, it's not every day your daughter goes to war.'"

"People asked me, 'aren't you frightened going to war?'" but I replied that it was more dangerous living in Dallas. I hear shooting from my apartment about twice a week."

Tirana streets calm after 2 days of demonstrations

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Troops and tanks guarded key Tirana buildings Friday after a second day of pro-democracy upheaval, but a resident of the Albanian capital said the streets were calm and people were back at work.

Communist Party officials called on citizens in an address late Thursday to "halt the dark forces in their tracks."

"The power of the people is imperilled, and the victories we achieved ... and together with Communists confront the situation in order to halt the dark forces in their tracks."

Albanian officials accused unidentified "dark forces," including some outside Albania, of whipping up discontent.

On Thursday, demonstrators burned books by Albania's Communist founder Enver Hoxha and tore down slogans praising the ruling Party of Labour in a further repudiation of the small Balkan country's Stalinist legacy.

Security forces fired warning shots into the air to disperse the protesters, some of whom sang and danced on tanks parked at a road block protecting an exclusive district where Communist top leadership lives.

A Tirana resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a crowd moved from the road block to nearby Skanderbeg Square and destroyed a slogan reading "long live the Labour Party of Albania," leaving only "Albania" intact.

On condition of anonymity, said a crowd moved from the road block to nearby Skanderbeg Square and destroyed a slogan reading "long live the Labour Party of Albania," leaving only "Albania" intact.

Meanwhile, foreign donations of medicines continued to arrive Thursday, as government officials urged that the international relief effort continue.

Health Minister Carlos Vidal said Thursday the government planned to increase chlorine levels in the drinking water supply, treat sewage water from Lima's hospitals before dumping it into the sea, send teams of health workers to inspect home plumbing "house by house" in the capital, and set up mobile public restrooms in Lima's shantytowns.

"We're going to start a massive campaign in the shantytowns," Vidal said.

Many of Lima's shantytowns, home to 4 million of the capital's 7 million people, lack water, sewage and health facilities. They have also registered the majority of cholera victims so far.

Health Ministry figures released Thursday said 117,727 people had died out of 23,727 reported cases of cholera since the disease was first reported in late January.

Vidal added he would ask President Alberto Fujimori to lower the government-controlled price of kerosene, so that working class housewives could afford to boil drinking water on kerosene stoves for 10 minutes, as recommended by the Health Ministry.

He said a complete report on the epidemic would be ready in 15 to 20 days. He added that the epidemic would not be brought under control for at least two months.

Meanwhile, 800 Lima sanitary workers continued an indefinite strike over pay increases for the second day.

The housing and construction minister, Guillermo Del Solar, admitted the cholera bacillus had

Former top Chinese official stripped of post

HONG KONG (R) — Xu Jianjun, Peking's most senior official in Hong Kong before his reported defection to the United States, has been stripped by China of his official posts in the National People's Congress (NPC) and accused of treason.

The report stated that Xu had betrayed the people, caused extremely bad consequences both at home and abroad, and betrayed the basic conditions expected of an NPC deputy.

Xu, replaced as NCNA Hong Kong director last February by hard-line Vice Foreign Minister Zhou Nan, left unexpectedly for the United States on April 30.

Chinese officials denied that he had defected, saying he had merely travelled to California for an extended holiday.

But Chinese sources in Hong Kong with access to Chinese Communist Party documents said Xu, 75, was now being seen as the highest ranking defector in Peking's hierarchy.

"I have seen an internal Communist Party circular which in fact treats him as one of the worst-ever defector cases," said one Chinese source who declined to be identified.

"It's pretty obvious he will eventually lose his party membership after losing his NPC seat," he added.

Xu, a smiling, grey-haired figure much-loved by local political cartoonists, had been China's senior representative in Hong Kong since 1983.

A spokesman for the German embassy denied reports that Germany had banned imports of Peruvian fish products, or that cholera cases had been registered in Germany as a result of eating contaminated fish.

The European parliament has called on the European Community to send aid to Peru to compensate for losses incurred by bans of Peruvian seafood exports by several Latin American nations, and by France and Italy.

But the head of the state fishing company Pescaperu, Roberto Marovich, said Thursday Peru's fishing exports had not been affected by the epidemic.

Marovich said a ban recently imposed in sardine fishing was for the breeding season, and not because of contamination.

Peru is the world's leading fishmeal exporter, and a major producer of fish oil and canned seafood. Annual fishing exports bring in \$500 million, a fifth of Peru's total exports.

A third German shipment of 10 tons of medicines arrived in Lima Thursday. Health official Dr. Alberto Galloso said nations had already donated some \$900,000 worth of medicines and had sent 30 doctors and epidemiologists to help combat epidemic.

"We would like to be part of

the process of choosing his own bride, instead of having the palace arrange a marriage," said Minoru Hamao, a former imperial chamberlain.

"But the crown prince has very little opportunity to mix socially with marriage-aged women," Hamao said in a recent interview.